

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
soaking a substrate having a dielectric deposited thereon in a salt solution,
said dielectric having a first dielectric constant; [[and]]
depositing an oxide on said dielectric, said oxide having a second dielectric
constant different from the first dielectric constant[.]; and
adjusting the pH of the salt solution.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein depositing an oxide
on said dielectric includes depositing primarily aluminum oxide on said dielectric.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein soaking said substrate in said salt
solution includes soaking said substrate in a salt solution comprising an aluminum salt.
4. (Original) The method of 3 wherein soaking said substrate in said salt
solution comprising said aluminum salt includes soaking said substrate in a salt solution
comprising aluminum chloride dissolved in water.
5. (Original) The method of 3 wherein soaking said substrate in said salt
solution comprising said aluminum salt includes soaking said substrate in a salt solution
comprising aluminum nitrate dissolved in water.
6. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein soaking said substrate in said salt
solution comprising said aluminum salt includes causing the reactants in said aluminum
salt solution available for surface reaction to range from about a few parts per million to
about one percent.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein depositing said oxide on said dielectric includes depositing said oxide on silicon dioxide.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein depositing said oxide on said dielectric includes depositing said oxide on hafnium oxide.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 including depositing a gate material on said oxide.

11. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
exposing a dielectric deposited on a substrate to a salt solution; and
causing an oxide which is different from said dielectric to form on said dielectric, at least a portion of said dielectric to remain between said substrate and said oxide as part of a functional structure.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 including exposing said dielectric on said substrate to an aluminum salt solution.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 including exposing said dielectric on said substrate to an aluminum chloride solution.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 including exposing said dielectric on said substrate to an aluminum nitrate solution.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 including adjusting the pH of said aluminum salt solution.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein causing an oxide to deposit on said dielectric includes causing reactants in said aluminum salt solution to react with the top surface of said dielectric.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein causing said reactants in said aluminum salt solution to react with the top surface of said dielectric includes depositing an aluminum oxide layer ranging in thickness from about a few parts per million to one or more atomic layers.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein exposing said dielectric to said salt solution includes exposing a dielectric selected from the group consisting of silicon dioxide, hafnium dioxide and zirconia to said salt solution.

19. (Original) The method of claim 11 including removing said substrate from said salt solution and rinsing.

20. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein exposing said dielectric to said salt solution includes exposing said dielectric to said salt solution for about a few seconds to about an hour.

21. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
depositing a dielectric on a substrate using a first method of deposition, said dielectric an oxide; and
depositing an oxide on said dielectric by immersing said substrate in a salt solution, said deposition by immersing different from said first method of deposition.

Claim 22 (Canceled)

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein depositing said oxide on said substrate includes depositing hafnium oxide on said substrate.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein depositing said oxide on said substrate includes depositing zirconia on said substrate.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein depositing said oxide on said substrate includes depositing silicon dioxide on said substrate.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein causing an oxide to deposit on said dielectric by immersing said substrate in a salt solution includes causing aluminum oxide to deposit on said dielectric by immersing said substrate in an aluminum salt solution.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein causing said aluminum oxide to deposit on said dielectric includes causing about a few parts per million of aluminum oxide to one or more atomic layers of aluminum oxide to deposit on said dielectric.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26 including adjusting the pH of said aluminum salt solution.

29. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein causing aluminum oxide to deposit on said dielectric by immersing said substrate in said aluminum salt solution includes causing the top surface of said dielectric to react with reactants in said aluminum salt solution.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 including forming a gate material on said oxide.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein depositing a dielectric on a substrate includes using a chemical vapor deposition technique to deposit said dielectric.

32. (Currently Amended) A method comprising, exposing a semiconductor substrate to a salt solution to form at least a portion of a film on the surface of the substrate, the film or portion thereof including aluminum oxide as the primary film material, and adjusting the pH of the salt solution.

Claim 33 (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 including exposing said semiconductor substrate to an aluminum salt solution.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 including depositing a dielectric that is not aluminum oxide on the substrate before exposing the substrate to the salt solution.